

## Book Reviews

**General Surgery.** By Albert I. Ochsner, ed. (Practical Medicine Series.) Volume 2. 624 pp. Illustrated. Chicago: Year Book Publishers. 1919. Price, \$2.50.

Anesthetics, analgesics. X-Ray, radiumtherapy. New instruments. Asepsis and antisepsis. Infected wounds and their treatment. Operative technic. Amputations. Wound healing and pathologic interventions. Shock. Gas gangrene. Tetanus. Anthrax. Malignant tumors. Blood vessels. Bones. Joints. Nerves. Skull and brain. Face and mouth. Neck. Thyroid. Mamma. Chest. Heart. Abdominal surgery—general. Peritoneum and mesentery. Stomach and duodenum. Intestinal surgery—general. Intestines. Veriform appendix. Rectum and anus. Hernia. Liver. Gall-bladder and bile-ducts. Pancreas. Spleen. Kidney and bladder. Spine. Upper extremity. Lower extremity.

**Pulmonary Tuberculosis.** By Maurice Fishberg, Clinical Professor of Medicine, New York University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College. Second edition, revised and enlarged. Lea and Febiger, Publishers, 1919.

The first edition of this work was extensively reviewed in this Journal in the July number, 1916. In the present edition two new chapters have been added, one on pleurisy, the other devoted to differential diagnosis. A few new paragraphs have been added to a consideration of pneumothorax and the matter incorporated into a separate chapter on the subject. Aside from these additions the subject matter remains much as it appeared in the first edition. A few new paragraphs have been added to chapters here and there, notably a page on influenza complicating tuberculosis. The general recognition of influenza as a factor in the reactivation of latent tuberculosis seems to the reviewer to have justified a more extended consideration of this important subject. To those not in possession of the first edition of this work the book will prove of value as a practical treatise on the subject.

G. H. E.

**Health Officer.** By Frank Overton and Willard J. Denno. 512 pages, illustrated. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1919. Price \$4.50.

This book commends itself particularly to every person engaged in public health work, especially to the physicians to the community and who, because of other duties, cannot give time or attention to the latest custom and procedure in all the activities in which a health officer should engage.

The chapters dealing with "the public and the health officer," "the physician and the health officer," and epidemiology and the management of communicable disease, if read by every physician and surgeon engaged in active practice, would bring about in many communities a better and closer relationship between the physician, the health officer than exists at the present time. The book gives to the public health worker in a concise and practical manner the facts of importance regarding the communicable and miscellaneous diseases that must be reported. The chapter on nuisances, sewage disposal, as well as those chapters dealing with records and the code of New York, are particularly valuable to the suburban and rural districts where only a skeleton organization exists to enforce or promulgate health work. Generally speaking, the book serves the public health worker as a guide and fills a void found in most works on sanitation and hygiene.

W. C. H.

**Rules for Recovery from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.** By Lawrason Brown. Third edition, revised. 192 pp. Philadelphia and New York: Lea & Febiger. 1919.

The fact that this little volume has come to its third edition is proof enough that the public appreciates and values this contribution to their knowledge of tuberculosis.

Dr. Lawrason Brown is a physician well qualified by experience and skill to write a monograph on treatment addressed directly to lay readers, and in doing so he has conferred a favor not only upon those who are ill with pulmonary tuberculosis, but also upon their medical guardians. For we must remember that medical works of this class written for lay readers are successful only when they bridge over gaps in medical education left by the pedagogical architects who have the building of medical curricula.

L. S. M.

**Sex and Sex Worship.** By O. A. Wall. 607 pp. Illustrated. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company. 1919.

This stupendously laborious work with its 372 most remarkable illustrations at first gives the impression that life is too short for its study. One hesitates and then decides to glance over it. But soon one is interested, and then fascinated. The author has collected an enormous number of historical facts demonstrating most peculiar kinds of worship, religious ceremonies, amongst them animal worship and revolting sexual sacrifices that formed sacred and venerated parts of various religious beliefs. In his preface he hopes for a time when "all that is fantastic, irrational, unbelievable, is eradicated from our faiths;" but we do not know what he thinks would then become of all the various religions.

The chapter on modern religions emphasizes the most ancient truth that "orthodoxy is my doxy, heterodoxy or unorthodoxy is the other fellow's doxy." Of course, Wall is not free from some orthodoxy of his own, and sometimes he lets his phantasy roam a little. For instance when he holds that various of the celebrated windows in different parts of the world are made to represent the yoni (vulva), it may appear to us somewhat far-fetched, though the author may know more about it than we realize. When he says "suppression of prostitution will never be possible" he certainly contradicts the excellent results that were obtained on paper by our modern reformers, and though history is on his side in regard to suppression, we must hope that prostitution will disappear when its social causes will also have disappeared.

We may be able to agree with him when he says that masturbation "is a bad habit, and a man would do well to avoid it, but it is not to be worried over if one cannot refrain from it," but he certainly goes too far when he adds: "If we eliminate the superstitious dread of sin, then masturbation is the most rational, the most effective, and the least harmful mode of gratifying sexual instincts, except coition with a wife." It is a part of his doxy that "Monogamy, based on the equality of the woman with the man, is the highest type of sexual relationship." One of the best chapters, and one that seems somehow out of place in the work itself, is the one entitled, "Is There an Immortal Soul?"

The book will be appreciated by all scholars, and we hope that the enormous amount of literature digested and study applied, will also be appreciated.

V. G. V.